

add the following two sections to the specification. In addition, please add the Abstract, appended hereto as a separate sheet.

### **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention provides a nozzle for the injection of fluid into a molding chamber. The nozzle includes a hollow passage having a distal end for connecting a pressurized fluid supply to the interior of the chamber. In addition, the nozzle has a pin extending through the passage and reciprocal between an extended position and a retracted position. The pin has an enlarged distal portion at least partially within and substantially blocking the passage when the pin is in its retracted position. An actuator is operably coupled to the pin, and assists in reciprocating the pin.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 is a side-view of an automated pin for a gas-assisted injection molding system according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A nozzle for the injection of fluid into a molding chamber comprising:
- a hollow passage having a distal end for connecting a pressurized fluid supply to the interior of said chamber; and

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a pin extending through said passage and reciprocal between an extended position and a retracted position, said pin having an enlarged distal portion extending beyond the distal end of said passage, said enlarged distal portion being at least partially within and substantially blocking said passage when said pin is in its retracted position;

said enlarged distal portion having a pressure surface; and

an actuator operably coupled to said pin, and reciprocating said pin in cooperation with a fluid pressure at said pressure surface.

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2. (CANCELLED)

C2

3. (AMENDED) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein said actuator is a hydraulic actuator.

C3

6. (AMENDED) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein said actuator is a ball screw drive.

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7. (TWICE AMENDED) A gas assisted injection molding apparatus comprising:  
a molding chamber;  
a supply of pressurized gas;  
a hollow conduit communicating with said gas supply and extending into said chamber;